

Message Text

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51 15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NIC-01

DRC-01 AID-20 A-01 SY-10 IO-13 EB-11 SCA-01 /159 W

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O 061006Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4095

INFO USINT ATBIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10513

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, FR, XF

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN TERRORIST OPERATION IN PARIS

1. PLO (Wafa) DAILY BULLETIN EVENING SEPT 5 CARRIED STATEMENT BY UNIDENTIFIED Wafa "POLITICAL COMMENTATOR" DENYING ANY RELATIONSHIP "BETWEEN ANY ORGANIZATION OF PALESTINE REVOLUTION AND WHAT IS NOW TAKING PLACE AT SAUDI EMBASSY IN PARIS".

STATEMENT ADDED THAT NO SUCH ORGANIZATION AS "PUNISHMENT ORGANIZATION" ("MUNAZZAMAT AL 'IQAAB") EXISTS IN FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT. (WE NOTE SIMILAR STATEMENT BY FATAH LEADER AND PLO EX COMM MEMBER FAROUQ QADDUMI WAS ISSUED IN ALGIERS.)

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2. Wafa Bulletin also carried separate but similar statement by unidentified "PLO spokesman" here, who went on to accuse "certain suspicious elements" of carrying out "criminal" Paris operation "for purpose of harming Palestinian national struggle and distorting its reputation in those European circles which have lately begun recognize justice of Palestinian cause and legality and humaneness of our struggle". Added that operation's aim "at this particular time...is to cause more problems for our revolution by isolating it, increasing hostility against it, provoking certain Arab forces to act against it, and harming its prestige at non-aligned conference at Algiers". Local Press Sept 6 also carries statement by unidentified "Fatah spokesman" supporting above PLO statements and denying any Fatah connection "with this criminal incident".

3. Local Press reaction so far has been limited, with leftist papers generally poo-hooing possibility of Fedayeen involvement "at time when Saudis have adopted positive stand" re ME conflict. Only Independent An Nahar and conservative Al Hayaat have so far accepted notion of Fedayeen responsibility, which they predict will create embarrassing complications for Fedayeen movement and its relations with SAG. Interestingly, news of Paris terror operation coincides with publication by local weekly Al Hawadith of interview with Saudi Minint Prince Fahd, in which he asserted Saudi-Fatah relations had "entered new era of understanding and joint cooperation".
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNN

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